

Address of Honorable John E. Fogarty, Member of Congress,
Second Congressional District, on November 5, 1944, Sunday,
at 9:15 P.M. over Radio Station WEAN.

In forty-eight hours the election will be finished. We shall be awaiting the verdict of the American people, on the stewardship of the Democratic Party.

The radio and news-services everywhere will be bringing their tremendous power to bear -- ready to flash to all the world -- the decision made in a free election -- by a free people.

The effect that decision is to have on the peoples of the world cannot be minimized. Whether we would have it so or not -- a repudiation of the man who has done most -- among all the leaders of the world -- to bring the war so close to complete victory -- will stun freedom loving people everywhere. Repudiation of the man who has done the most -- among all men -- to make it possible to guarantee a just and lasting peace -- will be the death blow to the hopes and prayers of the mothers of tomorrow's young men.

We all know -- there has been altogether too much bitterness in this campaign year. There has been too little regard for the unity of purpose which is so vitally essential. This is one election in which all of us should exercise our franchise without regard to blind partisanship. In selecting our next President, we should be guided solely by our best motives consistent with conscience. We should honestly strive to avoid passion and hate -- for in that way lies ruin.

There are some campaigners who seem to feel that the people of the Country are not concerned with the war. It is treated as something already in the past -- and scant acknowledgment is given of the constant burden of

worry that hangs heavily over every household in the land.

War is a very personal thing -- its burdens are borne by the mothers and fathers of the Country -- not by those who clamor for it and certainly not by those who profit by it. Their sufferings and heartaches -- the suspense and sacrifice which is felt by the wives, the sweethearts, - the childless who long for little ones -- all speak eloquently against war, for theirs are the hearts which are constantly in pain.

Because I know this is so, I have very definite convictions about war, and I want to state, frankly and firmly -- these are the convictions which have guided me -- and which will continue to guide me where war is concerned.

The story is told that I did not want war -- and I am criticised viciously for that feeling. It is the truth -- I did not want war -- I do not want it -- I never shall want it -- and you have my word I shall do everything that lies in my power to prevent it.

During the years from 1936 to 1941 -- I am sure you will all recall - we were deeply worried by the march of events which culminated in the tragic problems which are ours today. For many years before 1941 the powers of evil had been stalking the stage of life -- issuing their threats and making advances which other Nations were either unwilling or unable to halt.

Let me ask you, sincerely, what evidence of leadership was there then -- on the part of these candidates who now profess to have all the answers and who claim they alone can lead us into a bright and peaceful future?

Down deep in our hearts we know none of us wanted war -- and down deep in our hearts we know that our President did everything that was humanly possible to avoid the spread of this war to our shores.

Personally, and I say it humbly, I did my best to avoid war. I worked hard for the passage of legislation which created the so-called Lend-Lease program. This legislation brought about a violent and bitter feud within the ranks of the Republican Party in Congress. This legislation was termed by the present GOP candidate for Congress -- a measure which marked the end of free Government everywhere.

Even after its enactment -- the GOP in Congress endeavored to make it ineffective by refusing to appropriate the funds which were vital to its operation. I worked for the passage of those appropriation measures.

I voted for every dollar of money that was appropriated to rebuild our Navy from the sorry hulking mess it had become under previous Republican administrations.

I supported all measures which were designed to vitalize our industry in order to turn out the equipment needed for adequate defense of our Country.

During the time I have served in Congress, I have been privileged to play a small part in developing the greatest Navy afloat -- through my membership on the Naval Affairs Committee. I know some will say this is vanity -- however, had the over-all job been bungled; if the quality and quantity of production had been defective; had the Navy been committed to a program which failed, then certainly critics would say the Naval Affairs Committee must share the blame. Certainly, then, it seems to me, the Committee now is entitled to a little bit of the credit.

During the time I have been privileged to serve as your Representative in Congress, I have been motivated by the desire to give voice to your hopes and desires and to make that voice effective -- in your National Government. If I am privileged again to have your support, I shall continue to do just that.

That is why I believe the United States must take part in the affairs of the world and contribute something to the well-being of the world's family of Nations. Only in that way can we have the secure peace for which you and I pray -- only in that way can we avoid the recurrence of war which you and I hate.

I have been criticised severely -- but I assure you I don't mind. Certainly it would be silly of me to expect anything else from the Journal -- and I shall consider myself fortunate -- if they can find nothing worse to call me -- than the language they use today.

I would like to point out, however, that the Journal is not qualified to speak as the great oracle. In fact, the Journal did not know war was coming. In 1937, they swore violently against war -- and urged all Americans to firmly resolve that never again -- never again -- should we become involved in a foreign war. They said then -- that such was the firm purpose of every American.

Later on in 1940, while I was trying to stop the shipment of oil and scrap to Japan, they refused to get excited over events in China and the Pacific, and warned that in our dealings with Japan -- we must -- avoid doing anything that would provoke the Japs.

I am not able to quote for you any utterances of the GOP candidate for Congress -- on the subject of Foreign Affairs -- there weren't any.

He was alive during those fateful years. He was a member of the Legislature when those events were taking place. Surely he must have been aware of the impact of those momentous happenings on the people of this district. He must have been conscious of their fears, their anxieties, perhaps their confusion of thought.

What were his judgments on the events of those days? It is impossible to say. He stood on the side-lines -- serving only his party's

predatory interests -- while the march of time rolled by.

He has stumped up and down the State screaming invective and striking out blindly at imaginary targets. His sole reference to his knowledge of the war was the inference that had he been in Congress -- we would have been in the war years ago.

No sympathy has he for the heartache of the mothers in the State -- no word of the worries that harry the mind of every father -- in his effort to create the impression that it's all over but the cheering.

He also accused me of being absent from Congress on occasions. As your representative on the Naval Affairs Committee, it is true that I did do a lot of traveling -- up and down both coasts several times. Did I do wrong?

He referred to my presence in Rhode Island -- during the past session of Congress. He hurt me when he did that -- I'm sure it was his desperation that made him do it.

I was taken from the train in New London, late one night, while I was returning to Washington. And I came back home to try to do what little I could to ease the dying days of one of God's noblest men -- my father. Did I do wrong?

I can't bring myself to believe that such cheap tactics make any impression on the people of Rhode Island.

I firmly believe, the people of Rhode Island, are going to the polls on Tuesday to cast their ballots in a manner they believe is in the best interest of their State and their Nation.

The decision we are to make, I am convinced, will affect the destiny of our Nation and that of the whole civilized world. Though we think of the future at home, and contemplate a brighter and more prosperous America, it will not profit us to increase our material possessions if we must thereafter raise sons and daughters for some future slaughter. We are, in fact, acting as trustees for these young men and young women, and for their children's children.

We cannot fail them. If we neglect this opportunity to bring a complete halt to constantly recurring wars -- we may never again be afforded the chance to do so.

The effect of repudiating our President we all know would have world-wide repercussions. Nations, large as well as small, would naturally believe that America had again reverted to the methods of 1920. We would, in effect, be telling them that they must plan to go their way alone. They would again be left to power politics -- and they could and would begin to prepare for World War III.

We have made our entry as a Nation into the last two World Wars. It is rank folly to entertain the notion that we could in any way avoid our involvement in a Third. Our decision must be that there shall be no Third World War. Certainly the untimely removal of Mr. Churchill or Mr. Stalin would throw us for a tremendous loss in our conduct of the war -- The time which would be wasted by a new man trying to learn the ropes might be fatal. Wouldn't the loss of our own Leader -- be a bigger loss?

In closing, please permit me to express my sincere thanks for your reception of what little I have to offer on these vital problems.

I am grateful for the many kindnesses which have been extended to me by the people throughout the Second Congressional District. I shall welcome an opportunity to repay them in kind.

Regardless of the name calling and the bitterness which have characterized this campaign -- regardless of the whisperings and rumors -- we are all Americans. We are in this thing together -- we must pull together to get it over with, fast, and then get on with the job of building a better world.

We have a momentous decision to make on Tuesday -- let's make it without any prejudice, or hatred, or feeling of revenge. Let's make it for America.

Remember the immortal words of Stephen Decatur?

Our Country! In her intercourse with foreign nations, may she
always be in the right; but our country, right or wrong!